(b) how much fund is allocated for encouraging research, seminars and conferences to discuss about the cure of AIDS by the Indian Systems of Medicine; and

(c) what steps have been taken to popularize Indian Systems of Medicines such as Siddha and Ayurveda in India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Ministry has received a research paper on "Suga Noi Sexually Transmitted Disease: Human Immuno Virus/Acquino Immuno Deficiency Syndrome." Further, the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS), an autonomous research body under the Deptt. of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has received two research papers; one on; "Immunomodulatory properties of certain Siddha drugs - PESIN and SIVA" and the other on "Study on the protective effect of BEKAY against Cecium Chloride induced hepatic damage in Rabbits".

(b) Exclusive allocations have not been made to discuss about the cure of AIDS by Indian System of Medicines. However, funds are provided for conducting seminars and discuss issues related to Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy.

(c) The Central Government has introduced a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote and popularize Indian Systems of Medicine including Siddha and Ayurveda within the country and abroad. The Schemes under reference include provisions for intra and extra mural research, scientific validation and new development of drugs, development of ISM & H institutions, hospitals and dispensaries, drugs quality control, international exchange programme etc.

Healthcare Packages of AIIMS

1101. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) plan to introduce an executive healthcare packages for 'health conscious' individuals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which the AIIMS is going the private hospital way;

(d) whether the AIIMS faculty has opposed these healthcare packages;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken not to approve the above proposal which amounts to increase revenue by the AIIMS at the cost of poor patients who will suffer if clinical manpower is siphoned off in the name of executive healthcare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has invited suggestions from various departments within the institute for introducing comprehensive health check up facility packages for prevention as well as early detection of potentially curable diseases. No final decision has been taken by the AIIMS for implementing the proposal.

National Leprosy Eradication programme

†1102. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Leprosy Eradication Programme is running behind the target;

(b) if so, the number of lepers identified during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the target of the said programme was to bring down number of lapers by the year 2003 to one leper per ten thousand;

(d) if so, whether the said target has been achieved; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in achieving the said target?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFAR (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir. The programme is making satisfactory progress towards achieving the goal of elimination by December, 2005. Already 17 States/UTs have achieved the goal and another 7 States are moving towards this goal.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.